

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ISO-00 /080 W
-----041399 270125Z /65

R 261446Z JAN 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1038
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0225

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP CU PO SO MZ
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MELO ANTUNES

REF: LISBON 430

1. MAJOR ERNESTO MELO ANTUNES RECEIVED HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT DURING HIS JANUARY 14 THROUGH 19 HAVANA VISIT. MELO WAS RECEIVED INTER ALIA BY FIDEL CASTRO, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF SENEN CASES, MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS MALMIERCA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE FERNANDEZ FONT, AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GUTIERREZ MUNIZ. (FYI CUBANS CONTINUE TO BE HIGHLY INTERESTED IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL EVOLUTION AND HAVE MENTIONED RECENT CARCUCCI APPOINTMENT TO US AS EVIDENCE OF HIGH DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT OF US IN PORTUGUESE POLITICS END FYI.)

2. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY HAS ONLY FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION ON CONTENT OF MELO ANTUNES CONVERSATIONS. EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT MELO ANTUNES RAISED WITH CUBANS LISBON'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, AND TO SECURE PERMISSION FOR RETURN OF SOME PORTUGUESE FORMER COLONS TO THESE COUNTRIES. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON CUBAN RESPONSE.

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EM PORTUGUESE EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY POINTS OUT THAT, WHILE MELO ANTUNES WAS INVITED BY CUBA BY BLAS ROCA, PRESIDENT OF THE QUASI-LEGISLATIVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PODER POPULAR AND FORMER TITULAR HEAD OF MOSCOW-LINING PSP COMMUNIST PARTY, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT MELO ANTUNES HAS ABANDONED HIS ANTI-STALINIST (THAT IS, ANTI-CUNHAL) STANCE. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MELO ANTUNES VISIT WAS SANCTIONED BY SOARES AND THAT ABSENCE OF CONCERN IN LISBON FOR

REACTION BY CENTER-RIGHT FORCES IN PORTUGAL TO MELO ANTUNES VISIT REFLECTED BOTH SOARES' OWN CABINET MANEUVERINGS AND MELO ANTUNES' INCREASINGLY APOLITICAL ROLE. ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE HERE, MELO ANTUNES HAS NO FURTHER MINISTERIAL AMBITIONS AND IS DEDICATING HIMSELF TO INTELLECTUAL PURSUIT OF STUDYING THIRD WORLD POLITICAL DYNAMICS - A SUBJECT HE WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH CUBANS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON AFRICA.

4. MELO ANTUNES WAS OBSERVED BY USINT PERSONNEL AT TROPICANA NIGHT CLUB, JANUARY 18, IN COMPANY WITH PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING CUBAN BORDER GUARD CHIEF PEDRO RODRIGUEZ PERALTA (THE FORMER GUINEA-BISSAU GUERRILLA CAPTURED AND HELD FOR FIVE YEARS BY PIDE) AND FIRST SECRETARY OF CUBAN CP IN ISLE OF PINES ARTURO LINCE. (FYI SOME TWO THOUSAND ANGOLAN AND MOZAMBIQUE STUDENTS ARE LOCATED ON ISLE OF PINES END FYI.) RODRIGUEZ PERALTA AND LINCE SPENT MOST OF EVENING TALKING TO PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR PALMA CARLOS (RODRIGUEZ PERALTA'S LISBON DEFENSE LAWYER) WHILE MELO ANTUNES CONCENTRATED ON SHOW.

5. ANY FURTHER EMBASSY LISBON INFORMATION ON AFRICAN ASPECTS OF TALKS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
GLASSMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA00225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-1054
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780120/aaaaaqyn.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba4509e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 LISBON 430
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3711597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF MELO ANTUNES
TAGS: PDIP, MILI, OVIP, CU, PO, SO, MZ, (ANTUNES, MELO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba4509e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014